

DECONTAMINATION SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Decontamination Specialist Certification Program is designed to assist in helping ensure that personnel in charge of decontamination are trained to perform cleanups and knowledgeable of established decontamination standards; to develop methods whereby an applicant can demonstrate competency and obtain certification to become a certified decontamination specialist; to protect the public health and the environment; and to provide for the health and safety of personnel involved in decontamination activities.

The certification rules apply to individuals who perform decontamination of property on the contamination list specified in Section 19-6-903(3)(b) of the Illegal Drug Operations Site Reporting and Decontamination Act.

Initial Application and Fee

An Initial Application must be completed and submitted to the Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) for approval no later than 10 working days prior to the exam noted in R311-500-5(a)(2). Applicants will be notified of their test date at least a week in advance of the scheduled date. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant along with the application, certification fee and reason for the return.

The application and certification fee is \$150.00 for a two-year certification period. The required fee shall accompany the application. The fee is not refundable.

Please send the application and fee to:

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
168 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
Attn: Bill Rees

For the first exam scheduled on October 28, 2005, the DERR will accept applications through Monday, October 24, 2005. Interested parties applying after this date will be eligible to take the exams scheduled in November 2005, December 2005 or March 2006.

Eligibility for Initial Certification

In accordance with R311-500-5, the following eligibility requirements shall be met prior to certification.

- **Health and Safety Training.** Each applicant must be certified and meet Occupational Safety and Health Agency requirements in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120 and any other applicable safety training related to the code, as required by federal and state law.

- Examination. Each applicant must successfully pass a comprehensive exam administered by the Executive Secretary.

To help prepare applicants for the exam, the DERR has developed a training manual titled Decontamination Specialist Training Manual (2005). The manual can be purchased at AlphaGraphics (801) 364-8451 for a fee. Individuals may purchase and review this manual prior to taking the exam. The exam will be based on R392-600, Illegal Drug Operations Decontamination Standards adopted by the Department of Health and the contents of this manual. Purchase of the manual is not required to take the exam, but is it recommended.

A two-hour time limit is allowed for completion of the closed-book exam (Each applicant must show picture identification to the exam administrator. In addition, a number two pencil is required for the exam). The minimum passing score is 80%. If an applicant does not pass the exam, a re-take exam must be scheduled with the exam proctor as soon as possible from the date of the initial exam. To take this exam, an applicant is not required to submit a new application, but will be required to pay the fee to cover the cost of the additional testing. In the event the applicant does not pass the re-take exam, the individual must wait six months prior to submitting a new application in accordance with R311-500-4.

An applicant who misses an exam will automatically be scheduled to take the next available exam. The individual will not be required to submit a new application or fee. If the individual misses the next scheduled exam, the individual will automatically forfeit the application and fee and will be required to re-apply for certification.

Certification and Renewal Certification

Initial certification is good for a period of two years and is dependent upon the applicant meeting and maintaining the application and eligibility criteria specified in R311-500. The criterion to renew the certificate is detailed in R311-500 as well. Details of the renewal process shall be made available well in advance of the time the first individuals renew their certification.

Performance Standards

Each applicant who submits an application under R311-500-4 and obtains certification under R311-500 agrees to comply with the Performance Standards outlined in the rule. Failure to comply could be cause for Department action to revoke the Certificate as specified in R311-500-9.

To comply with Performance Standards, the decontamination specialist:

- (1) Shall be certified prior to engaging in any decontamination activities for the purpose of removing the contaminated property from the list referenced in Section 19-6-903(3)(b) and display the certificate upon request;
- (2) Shall report to the local health department the location of any property that is the subject of decontamination work by the decontamination specialist;
- (3) Shall file a workplan with the local health department;
- (4) Shall perform work in accordance with the workplan;
- (5) Shall perform work meeting applicable local, state and federal laws, including certification and licensing requirements for performing construction work;
- (6) Shall oversee and supervise all decontamination activities and ensure any person(s) assisting with decontamination work at contaminated property meets Occupational Safety and Health Agency hazardous materials (HAZWOPER) safety training requirements in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.120;
- (7) Shall disclose to any person(s) assisting with decontamination at contaminated property that work is being performed in a clandestine drug laboratory, inform the person(s) of the potential risk associated with this type of environment and ensure that the person(s) wears the necessary personal protective equipment as established by the decontamination specialist;
- (8) Shall make all decisions regarding decontamination and be the only individual conducting confirmation sampling;
- (9) Shall follow scientifically sound and accepted sampling procedures;
- (10) Shall submit a Final Report to the local Health Department, which includes an affidavit stating that the property has been decontaminated to the standards outlined in R392-600;
- (11) Shall maintain a current address and phone number on file with the Division;
- (12) Shall not participate in fraudulent, unethical, deceitful or dishonest activity with respect to performance of work for which certification is granted; and
- (13) Shall not participate in any other activities regulated under R311-500 without meeting all requirements of that certification program.

For further information on R311-500, R311-501 and the Decontamination Specialist Certification Program, please contact Bill Rees at (801) 536-4167 or at Brees@Utah.gov